- Pursuing appropriate sectoral policies in individual sectors which are particularly important for employment generation. These sector level policies must be broadly consistent with the overall objective of accelerating GDP growth.
- Implementing focused special programmes for creating additional employment and enhancing income generation from existing activities aimed at helping vulnerable groups that may not be sufficiently benefited by the more general growth promoting policies.
- Pursuing suitable policies for education and skill development, which would upgrade the quality of the labour force and make it capable of supporting a growth process which generates high quality jobs.
- Ensuring that the policy and legal environment governing the labour market encourages labour absorption, especially in the organized sector.

Subsequently, a special group in the Planning Commission was constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.P. Gupta, Member, Planning Commission to suggest strategies and programmes in the Tenth Plan for creating gainful employment opportunities for one crore people per year during each year of the Tenth Plan. The special group has submitted its report in May 2002.

Corruption in PF Offices

2440. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large-scale corrupt practices are prevailing in different regional PF offices;

(b) whether poor employees are being losers due to the default/ callousness of the RPF offices; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures contemplated by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The onus of complying with the provisions of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous provisions Act, 1952 is on the establishment falling under the ambit of the Act. However, in many cases the establishments do not properly discharge their provident fund liabilities and actions in such matters is taken in accordance with the relevant provisions provided for in the Act to meet such eventualities. Whenever any case of default or evasion of provident fund membership being facilitated by the collusion of the official of Empolyees' Provident Fund Organisation comes to notice, necessary corrective and punitive actions are taken. Since the last one year, EPF has introduced computerized default monitoring which has helped to plug the loopholes.

Welfare of the Labourers in Unorganised Sector

2441. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken any steps to ensure the welfare of the labourers in unorganized sectors such as agriculture, small hotels and dhabas, textiles, leather etc;

(b) if so, the various welfare measures taken by Government for the unorganized workers in agriculture and other sectors during the last three years; and

(c) the number of people covered under these programmes, during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The Government has taken several steps to ensure the welfare and social security of workers in the unorganised sector. A number of legislations have been enacted viz., the Maternity Benefits Act, 1961; the Minimum Wages Act, 1948; the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923; the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976; the Employees, Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 which are also applicable to workers in the unorganized sector including those engaged in small hotels, dhabas, textiles, leather, etc.